

OCT 4 - 1960



RECREATION news

ISSUED BY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BRANCH

ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Vol. 14

September, 1960

No. 8

ELEMENTARY ARTS AND CRAFT INSTRUCTION WILL BE FEATURE OF 1960-61 PROGRAM

The program for craft training in Alberta during the 1960-61 season was recently announced by W. J. Netelenbos, supervisor of the Arts and Crafts Division, Cultural Activities Branch. Some changes have been made in the new plan as outlined:

Elementary Craft Courses:

This is the first time in the Arts and Crafts Program that an elementary craft program has been offered to the people of Alberta and it is specially designed for the teachers of the elementary schools and instructors of youth programs, to encourage the youth of Alberta in the creative enjoyment of more advanced crafts. Such courses are the doorway that lead into the Arts and Crafts field. Elementary Craft Courses have replaced quick craft courses. All teachers at elementary schools can apply as can leaders of boys' and girls' camps, recreation schools, play-grounds. Further, all kinds of community organizations can apply for those courses if a minimum of eight and a maximum of 16 students are assured.

Basic Craft Courses:

We can call these courses "COMMUNITY COURSES". They can be obtained only by responsible community organizations all over Alberta, i.e. Recreation Boards, Arts and Crafts Centers, Church, School, Home and School Organizations, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., A.W.I., etc. Preference will be given for classes where the student enrolled represents more than two communities or out-lying districts.

The following courses are offered: Ceramics, Design, Leather, Copper-Tooling and Weaving.

New communities which would like to start one of these courses are advised

to start with the Basic Design, as design is the basis of all craft.

Craft Work Shops:

This is a new kind of course in our Program, duration of only two days. It is a service to all active communities in the Province of Alberta which have had a basic craft course before. The instructor conducting such a craft course will also help a community with problems pertaining to craft; introduce new ideas and assist in furthering Arts and Crafts activities.

Advanced Craft Courses:

These courses are designed for craftsmen in the Province of Alberta who wish to become "certified" part-time community craft leaders and who hold an Evaluation Record in Design and at least one craft.

Deadline for Basic Craft Courses and Craft Work Shops is October 15, 1960.

Write for further information to:

Arts and Crafts Division,
Cultural Activities Branch,
Dept. of the Provincial Secretary,
Room 424, Legislative Building,
Edmonton, Alberta.
W. J. Netelenbos, Supervisor.

WANTED

A Recreation Therapist is required for the Provincial Training School at Red Deer. Training and experience should be outlined in the first application.

Apply to:

Personnel Director,
Provincial Training School,
Red Deer, Alberta.

Folk Singing Group Tours Playgrounds

Folk singing has taken great strides forward in Edmonton in the past year. The culmination of almost a year of activity came this summer with a highly successful tour of city playgrounds by nine singers from a group known as the Edmonton Folk Singers. The tour was under the auspices of the City of Edmonton, Recreation Department.

Almost a year ago Miss Van Scraba got the idea of having a few friends in to sing together of a Sunday evening. The membership of this informal group varied greatly through the winter, but hardened in the spring into a group of ten who presented a few concerts at local hospitals. Then, under the direction of Vern Ray, the summer venture for children was put into effect.

The summer program was presented to 20 groups of children varying in numbers from 20 to 100. The singers followed a simple procedure in inducing their young audiences to not only listen, but to sing along. The group leader would first ask that the children listen to a song as it was presented in concert fashion. Then the children were asked to join in the second time through. The response was usually immediate, the children picking up the melody and word pattern with remarkable speed and accuracy. In some songs, as in a round for example, the singers would mingle with the children and the entire playground became one chorus. The group's song-bag consisted of play-songs, animal songs, work songs and simple ballads, mainly from Canada and the United States. Among the children's favorites were "Three Fishermen" from Canada's east coast and "This Land Is Your Land", a Canadian adaptation of Woodie Guthrie's patriotic American ballad.

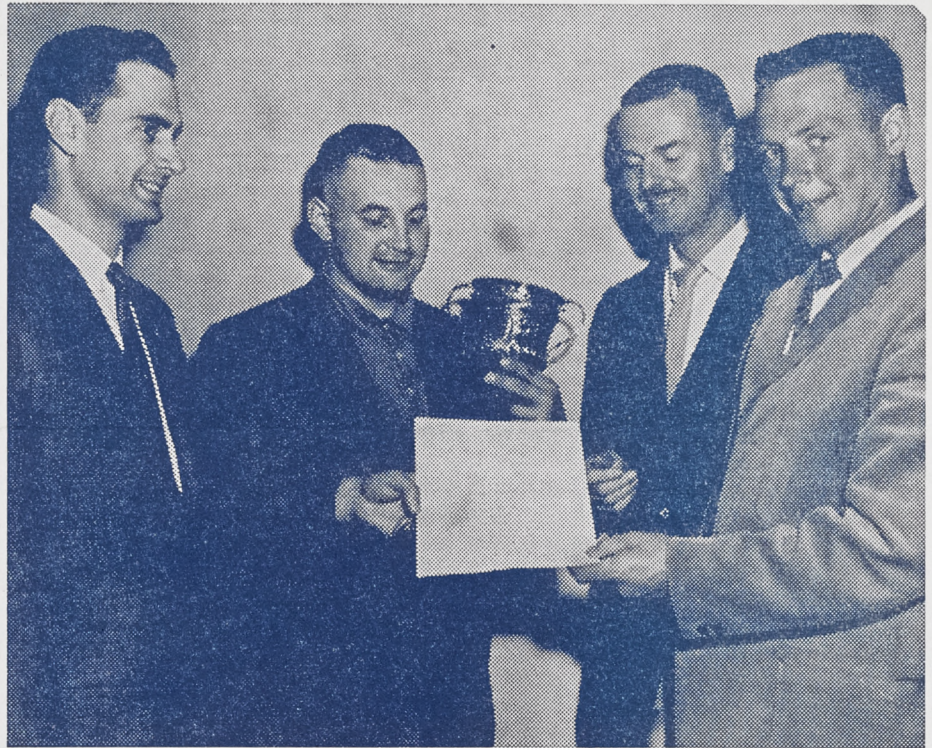
ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY CONDUCTS FIRST ALBERTA CLINIC

The first Royal Life Saving Society Examiners' Clinic in Alberta was held in the University of Alberta's new Recreation Building September 10-11, under the joint sponsorship of the Royal Life Saving Society, Alberta Branch, and the Community Recreation Bureau. Delegates from many points in Alberta were in attendance.

One of the highlights of the Clinic was the presentation by Mr. R. A. Johnson, president of the Alberta Branch, of a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Ross Hetherington of Turner Valley. The certificate was awarded at the annual general meeting of the Council of the Society held in London, England May 30, 1960, and was signed by the Grand President of the Society, Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Mountbatten of Burma. The certificate was awarded to thank Mr Hetherington for his efforts in extending the work of the Society into rural areas of the Province.

Mr. R. A. Johnson, branch president, welcomed the delegates, and reminded them that the load of stimulating activities fell primarily upon the examiners. He also noted that the branch required additional activity in the Province to insure that the branch remained in a sound financial position.

Delegates at the Clinic heard addresses by Jack Riddel, Community Recreation Bureau, and W. Kaasa, Cultural Activities Branch on Public Relations, Publicity and Public Speaking. A panel discussion of relationships between the various fields of swimming included as panelists: Mrs. M. Stewart, President Alberta Synchronized Swimming Association; F. T. Brown, Vice President Canadian Amateur Swimming Association;



Shown at the Presentation of the Certificate of Appreciation are left to right: R. A. Johnson, President, R.L.S.S.. Alberta; Jack Boddington, Chief Provincial Examiner; Jack Riddel, Community Recreation Bureau, and Ross Hetherington.

A. G. Gilmet, Water Safety Director, Canadian Red Cross Society, and Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Jack Boddington, Chief Examiner in Alberta, spoke on the subject of Examiner's Duties, and conducted open discussions on the various aspects of the R.L.S.S. program. H. Geib, Alberta Branch Secretary instructed the group on the new all-Canadian program of awards and procedures. Mr. Geib charted the various awards of the Society, along with the grade and number of Examiners required for each.

Members of the Edmonton Aquadette swimming club demonstrated the various skills required for the higher awards of the Society. A tour of the new Recreation Building at the University was conducted by University staff members.

Held in conjunction with the Clinic, was the annual Examiners' Dinner. Examiners heard Mr. C. D. Cooke of Grande Prairie speak on R.L.S.S. work in police colleges in the United Kingdom. Distinction Awards were presented to Lorna Davis and Mardel Wren, both of Calgary. Examiner's Cards of Authority were presented to Lorna Davis, Rita

SEEK OPINION ON NEED OF COACHING CLINICS

Consideration will be given to establishing weekend Coaching Clinics this fall where interest warrants it. The Community Recreation Bureau will endeavour to conduct these short courses to best suit all areas of the province, central and south. The Bureau will require a registration of 25 or more to commence a school. The Community Recreation Bureau will also reserve the right to limit registration from any one community Recreation Bureau.

Foster, Mary Clithero, Calgary; and Glen Burns of Grande Prairie.

A silver replica of the William Henry Memorial Cup, which was won in 1959 by the Alberta Branch in Commonwealth competition for the greatest percentage increase in awards gained, was displayed to the delegates throughout the Clinic.

Syd Moore Returns To Lethbridge Post

Syd Moore, Recreation Director at Lethbridge is back at his office in the southern city after a full summer of activities at Banff and Red Deer. Mr. Moore has been engaged for the past three months attending the seminar at Banff during June and also instructing at the Recreation Leadership School held at Red Deer. Now that he has returned to Lethbridge he is again available to assist with recreational development in that area.

Recent Band Clinic Conducted At Olds Highly Successful

The recent Clinic for instrumentalists and bandmasters, organized by the Cultural Activities Branch of the Provincial Government, was judged to be highly successful. In attendance for the eight days were 18 community bandmasters and 41 instrumentalists from all parts of the province. Half of the bandmasters formed the second year class.

Included in the courses for bandmasters were classes in theoretical and practical conducting under the supervision of Prof. Leif I. Christianson of Moorhead, Minn., U.S.A. Every day the students had an opportunity to conduct the clinic band under the guidance of Prof. Christianson and will receive a report on their work.

Capt. F. M. McLeod of the Lord Strathcona Horse Band, Calgary, lectured on rudiments, theory, band scoring and basic brass instruction. Bandmasters were set an examination paper in these subjects.

Instrumental students were given a daily half hour lesson by the instrumental staff. The latter were the pick of the Canadian Army and civilian players of Calgary and Edmonton. Each day the clinic rehearsed for a total of five hours under Prof. Christianson, Capt. McLeod and the director. At the end of the clinic a public concert was given. This attracted such a large audience that many people had to be turned away. The band presented an excellent performance including such selections as "Themes from Offenbach", Leroy Anderson's "Sandpaper Ballet" and Harold Walters' "American Folk Suite".

Featured in the concert were the two bands trained by Mr. L. W. Echols of the Conn Corporation. Two groups each of 20 children were recruited from Olds and given daily lessons. Mr. Echols demonstrated the teaching of song flutes and beginning band. None of the children in either group had any previous experience of instrumental playing. The children attended the clinic for an hour each day and at the final concert each group played two tunes. It was an amazing virtuoso demonstration of teaching on the part of Mr. Echols. He compressed the work of a six week period into five days. The daily lessons were attended by the bandmaster students.

The Olds Band Clinic was the second sponsored by the Music Division of the Cultural Activities Branch and was organized by the Music Supervisor, D. J. Peterkin.

MEDICINE HAT REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER PLAYGROUND SEASON

Happy working relationship exists between the Medicine Hat Recreation Commission and the Medicine Hat Public Library. Co-operation between these two agencies of recreation has always been good, but in the summer playground season the two staffs concerned work most closely together.

During the spring, when the Commission sets up its training courses for prospective playground supervisors, the Library is contacted for help with books and personnel. The Children's Librarian gives talks on story-telling, at usually two three-quarter hour sessions, to provide each student with some fundamentals of telling stories to children of various ages. A mimeographed list of the steps involved is provided by the Library for each student, and of course, the Library's book collection is at their disposal.

Particularly in the fields of games and things to do and make, is the Library of use to the students. Since sports, games, and handicrafts are integral subjects in the course, the Library buys at least a dozen new books and pamphlets on these topics each year. One source is the National Recreation Association in New York, but other publishers who specialize in books on the above topics are also used, with the specific needs of the local Recreation Commission in mind. A partial list of titles is appended. It only indicates a very few of the books which have been purchased and drawn to the attention of the Recreation Commission Director.

Story telling: Playground series No. 33; Aquafun—water games and carnivals; Hobbies and crafts—Estrin; Fun in the water—Cureton; Folk dances for all—Herman; Creative crafts for campers — Hammett & Horrocks; Creative playgrounds and recreation centres — Lederman; Designs and how to use them—Priolo; General Leathercraft — Cherry; ABC's of camp music—Tobitt; Acting games—Collins; Fun and games —Mulac; Games for everyday—Elliott.

At the end of the 1960 season, on August 30, the Commission put on a display of its season's work in arts and crafts, music, skits and stunts, in an effort to show the parents and the community what their children learn in playgrounds during the summer. "Playground Capers" were held in the Arena, with over 100 children taking part, and the show was well attended indeed.

At that display the Library exhibited a sample collection of the books the young supervisors had used to prepare themselves for the course, and to carry it out during the season. In this way, the library's contribution to community was recognized, and we are grateful to the Commission for making our display possible.

During these past few years of co-operation with the Recreation Commission, Director Alex Kaleta has called upon Mrs. Ina Scanlan, Children's Librarian until July 15, 1960, and her staff for help with story-telling and with finding games and songs. Mrs. Gerry Thomson and her staff of the Adult Department have found books on crafts and designs for Miss Phyllis Becker, handicraft instructor. The writer has enjoyed buying these books with the needs of the Recreation Commission in mind. We have all enjoyed working together to bring recreation to the community to which we belong—Medicine Hat.

Drama Seminar Held at Olds

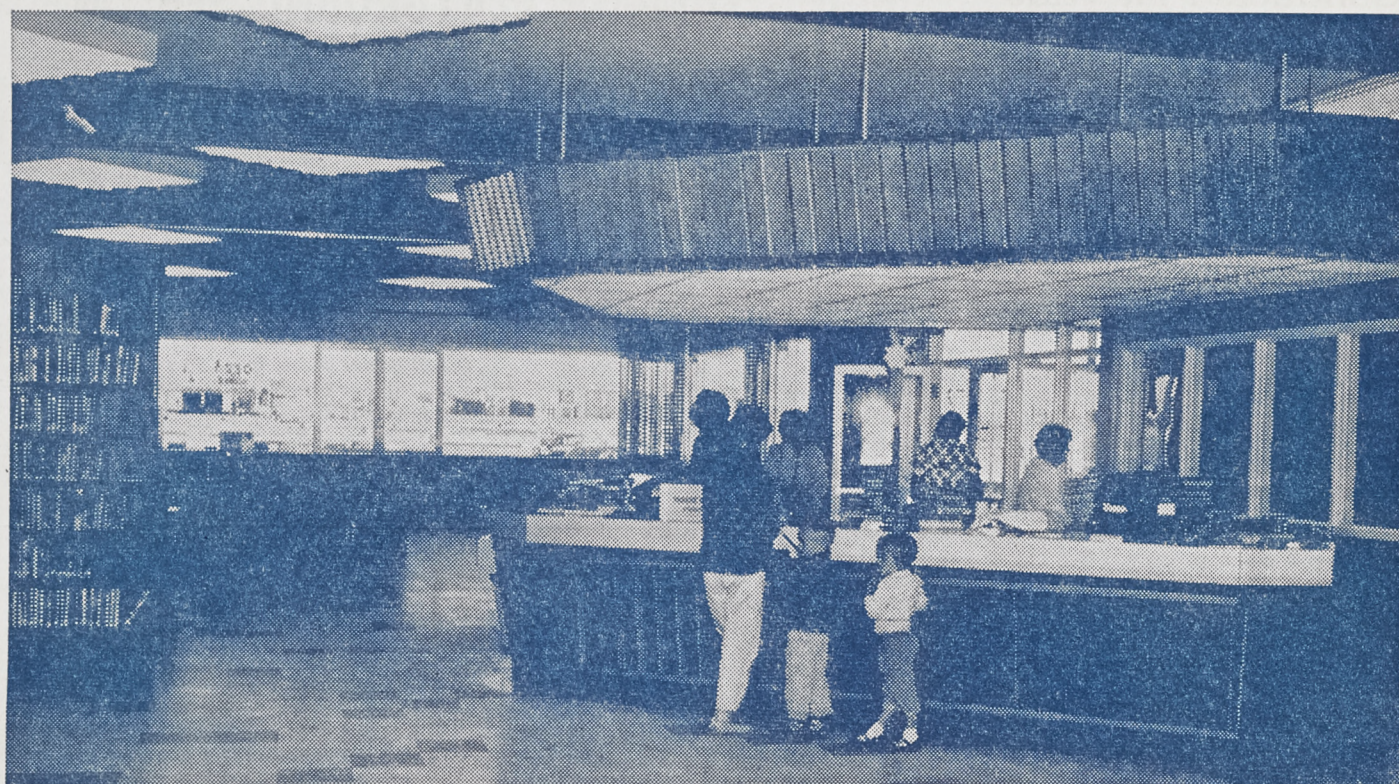
They were working from 9 in the morning 'til 11 o'clock at night, but none of the 43 students attending the 7-day drama seminar sponsored by the Drama Division of the Cultural Activities Branch at Olds last month, objected.

It was the first week-long drama seminar ever held in the province, and it was a pronounced success. The emphasis during the week was placed on acting, directing and stage craft, but lectures on design, make-up and lighting were also given. The week-long course culminated in a performance on the last night at which eight excerpts from "MACBETH" were presented.

Heading the staff were Robert Gill, Director of the University of Toronto's Hart House Theatre, and Professor Frank Holroyd of the University of Saskatchewan.

Drama Supervisor Jack McCreath, was in charge of the Seminar, and students attending represented 14 Alberta communities ranging from Grande Prairie in the north to Ralston and Lethbridge in the south.

MODERN LIBRARY OPENED AT EDMONTON



This view of the new library illustrates the modern architectural design of the building, particularly the abundant use of glass to brighten the interior.

Idlewild Branch Library, situated at 8310 - 88th Avenue at the north end of Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre, is Edmonton's newest addition to its library service and was opened on June 1st by Donald Payment, Chairman of the Edmonton Library Board. The whole building comprises library and health centre and the by-laws authorized an expenditure of \$14,000, which paid for construction and the wall shelving in the library.

The centre portion of the building houses the heating plant, staff lounge and washroom facilities for both nurses and library staff and a library work-room and librarian's office.

Spacious is the word for the area used by the public. This measures 105' x 59' and is divided 3:2 for adults and children. The children's library is to the south and separated by a folding door. When extended this cuts off the children's library from the adult department and is used for story-hours, cinema shows and class visits without any interference with the rest of the library's activities. All the island stacks are free moving and when the bookstock increases any arrangement with additional book shelves is possible.

The basement houses the city's bookmobile operation. A garage 75' x 12' accommodates two bookmobiles used in

those areas of the city which have, as yet, no branch library. A loading ramp leads to the bookmobile reserve book store and a work room and the whole area measures 30' x 57'.

The building was designed by the City Architect's staff and is designed to accommodate 24,000 volumes in the lending library. Half empty shelves — and some more than half empty — bear testimony to the good use made of the library. In the first three months of operation book loans were as follows:

June	26,683
Children — 17,038	Adults — 9,645
July	20,019
Children — 11,879	Adults — 8,140
August	24,656
Children — 14,187	Adults — 10,469

A total of 71,358 volumes were loaned to residents of this area or approximately 24% of all books borrowed from city libraries during this period. Mrs. Thornton, Branch Librarian, and her staff are to be congratulated on coping with the flood of readers — 60% of whom were children. Summer months are generally regarded as a slacker period of library use, and no doubt Idlewild Branch will be even busier during this Fall and Winter.

Canadian Books Provided Free By Foundation

Several Alberta libraries may benefit from gifts of books for "young Canadians", through the Richardson Century Fund. The sets of books, eight in number, are of Canadian subjects primarily, and written for younger members of the Canadian communities.

The presentation of books by foundations and by companies, to public libraries is becoming increasingly a form of public service that is well received by every community effected.

The books proposed by the Winnipeg organization include: The Great Adventure—Dickie, Donald J.; Paddle-to-the-Sea—Holling, Hollin Clancy; Two Little Savages — Seton, Ernest Thompson; Reign by Reign—Usherwood, Stephen; Ian of the Red River—Guttormsson, R.; The Farthest Shores—Haig-Brown, Roderick; The Link Between the Oceans—Neatby, Leslie H.; The Dangerous Cove—Hays, J. F.